

12 December 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**SUBJECT : Deployment of Project OILSTONE/AQUATONE
to the Far East**

1. Under date of 13 November I addressed a memorandum to you on the above subject to which you replied on 28 November. On 5 December we discussed this matter further in your office. The purpose of this note is to advise you of the present status of this matter.

2. In your memorandum and in the course of our conversation, you explained that it would be difficult for the Air Force to provide base facilities for the third AQUATONE detachment at [REDACTED] both because the simultaneous presence of this unit and BLACK KNIGHT would overcrowd the facilities of the theater and because you deem it unwise (for reasons I fully understand) to mix the personnel of these two organizations at the same base. You also suggested that, in view of the presence of BLACK KNIGHT in the Far East, we might wish to consider the retention of the third AQUATONE detachment in [REDACTED] for the present and its subsequent deployment to [REDACTED]

3. I accepted your judgment about [REDACTED] and agreed that since BLACK KNIGHT is already in place there the AQUATONE detachment should be based elsewhere. It was further agreed between us that, if this unit is to be deployed to the Far East, Atsugi Naval Air Station might be the best location provided a hangar could be made available there, since a minimum of new construction would be necessary and since billets and other facilities are already available to this Agency without the displacement of any military personnel. Accordingly, I advised you that we would approach the Chief of Naval Operations to investigate this possibility.

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4. This has since been done. In response to our request for facilities at Atsugi, Admiral Burke informed us that, if it were desirable to deploy an AQUATONE unit to the Far East, the Navy could probably make a suitable hangar available on rather short notice. He also stated that he would discuss this matter with you and possibly raise it with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This I understand he has done.

25X1A 5. We have carefully considered the possibility of deploying the third AQUATONE detachment to [REDACTED] as an alternative to its deployment to the Far East. We are led to the conclusion, however, that there is little prospect of needing it for this purpose. Both political and security considerations indicate that nothing more than a brief and limited staging operation should be contemplated [REDACTED] Moreover the high priority targets more readily accessible from [REDACTED] than from other bases could be covered in a small number of missions. Since we can deploy up to twelve aircraft to Europe by March 1957 and our plans call for the temporary use of only [REDACTED] we are satisfied that the requirement can be met without drawing on the resources of the detachment now in readiness for deployment.

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6. In summary, the position is now as follows:

We remain convinced of the desirability of deploying the third AQUATONE detachment to the Far East.

We understand the necessary physical facilities could probably be made available at Atsugi.

Our request for such facilities is before Admiral Burke and we are awaiting the outcome of his consultations with you and other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I need not review the reasons for my belief that this unit should be in place as soon as possible where it can be used to the best advantage to meet any need that exists or may arise.

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ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

RMB;gjj (11 Dec 56)

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